

E 462
.99
.568
Copy 1

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Soldiers' & Sailors' State Convention

HELD IN

ALBANY, N. Y.,

APRIL 17TH AND 18TH, 1866.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONVENTION.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y. :
WILLIAM POOL, PRINTER.
[NIAGARA FALLS GAZETTE PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.]

1866.



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Soldiers' & Sailors' State Convention

HELD IN

ALBANY, N. Y.,

APRIL 17TH AND 18TH, 1866.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONVENTION.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y. :
WILLIAM POOL, PRINTER,
[NIAGARA FALLS GAZETTE PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.]

1866.

E 462

.99

.568

PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY.

TUESDAY, April 17th, 1866.

Agreeable to a call made on the 19th of March 1866, a Convention of Soldiers and Sailors of the State of New York, was held at the County Court Rooms, in the City of Albany, on the 17th day of April 1866.

The Convention was called to order by Col. Wm. L. Bramhall of the 93d N. Y. V., who, after stating the object of the Convention, nominated Col. James B. McKean, of Saratoga, as temporary Chairman, who was elected.

On motion, Maj. F. W. Parsons, of Niagara, was elected Secretary of the meeting.

On motion, Major R. Van Brunt, of Schenectady, was appointed additional Secretary of the meeting.

On motion of Capt. James Brice, of Albany, the Chair was empowered to appoint a Committee of ten, upon credentials, and in order to enable the Chair to act understandingly the Secretary was directed to receive the credentials of delegates by Counties.

The Chair designated the following as such Committee:

Col. George W. Warren, W. I. Nichols, Geo. T. White, J. C. Carnickael, H. S. Morse, T. S. Crosby, Col. Geo. F. Hopper, Maj. Ezra F. Wetmore, Lieut. W. Gilbert, Capt. DeLoss Garey.

On motion Maj. H. A. Hall, President of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union at Washington, D. C., was admitted to a seat in this Convention.

On motion, Maj. R. Van Brunt was added to the Committee on credentials. and the Committee retired for consultation.

During the absence of the Committee, Col. Wm. L. Bramhall read the following letter from Brig. Gen. J. H. Ketchum, M. C., which was received with applause.

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS, }
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON D. C., April 14, 1866. }
COL. WM. L. BRAMHALL.

My Dear Sir:—Your letter, inviting my attendance at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Convention to be held at Albany on Tuesday the 17th inst., is received.

I believe the object of the Convention will be the discussion of matters pertaining to the interest of our Citizen Soldiers and Sailors, and the adoption of such measures as will best subscribe the same. This movement has my sincere sympathy.

thy and best wishes for its success, and I can but regret that my official duties will not permit the acceptance of your kind invitation.

Very Respectfully, Your Obt. Servant,

J. H. KETCHUM.

Also a letter from the Treasurer of the Soldiers' and Sailors' National Union.

Hon. N. D. Ferguson addressed the Convention till the return of the Committee on Credentials, who reported, with request to sit again, which request was granted and their report accepted. The Committee on Credentials reported the following named delegates who were admitted to seats:

ALBANY.—A. R. Hitchcock, Capt. James Brice, Col. J. Hastings, Surg. C. A. Statts, Capt. J. Barnett, Maj. J. H. TenEyck, Surg. A. A. Edmeston, Maj. S. Davidson, Lieut. A. O. Springer, Col. J. Hefferman; German Veteran Corps—Lieut. Geo. Krank; Congressional—Col. G. W. Warren; At large—Col. R. C. Bentley; Guilderland—Lieut. Wm. P. Barker; New Scotland—Capt. A. Dodds.

ALLEGHANY.—W. I. Nichols.

BROOME—Col. M. B. Eldridge.

COLUMBIA—Capt. Geo. T. White, Geo. Lasher, Adj. Abram Ashley, Maj. R. J. Plato, Capt. F. Butler, Maj. G. M. Becker.

CORTLAND—Col. J. C. Carmichael, Surg. H. C. Hendrick.

DUTCHESS—Lieut. H. H. Morse, Lieut. A. Landon Ostrane, Isaac G. Manning, Gen'l A. B. Smith, Lieut. Benj. F. Marfitt, Lieut. Wm. Platrom, Lieut. H. S. Borgadus.

ESSEX—Surg. Geo. T. Stevens.

HERKIMER—T. S. Crosby.

JEFFERSON—Major N. D. Ferguson.

KINGS—Lieutenant John P. Robbins.

LIVINGSTON—Colonel W. H. Young.

NEW YORK—Col. Wm. L. Bramhall, Col. Geo. F. Hopper, Frank J. Bramhall.

NIAGARA—Maj. F. W. Parsons, Maj. J. D. Newman.

ONEIDA—Maj. Ezra F. Wetmore, Lieut. W. E. Halstead, Col. Northrup.

ONONDAGA—Col. Horace H. Walpole, Lieut. W. Gilbert.

ORANGE—Col. Wm. B. Deekey.

ONTARIO—Capt. H. Shutt.

OSWEGO—Capt. DeLoss Garey.

OTSEGO—John M. Waterman.

PUTMAN—Col. Stephen Baker.

RENSSELAER—Maj. LeGrand Benedict, Capt. T. Maxwell, Surg. LeRoy NeLean, Maj. Joseph Egolf, Sergt. Ezra Crandell, Capt. S. W. Snyder, Asst. Surg. John S. Washburn, Capt. J. A. Cross, Capt. Wm. Burk, Col. Joseph Hyde; delegate at large, Maj. Gen. J. B. Carr.

SCHODACK—Maj. George Bushnell

SARATOGA—Col. J. B. McKean, Bvt. Brig. Gen. G. S. Batchelloi
Lieut. J. H. Clark.

SCHENECTADY—Col. A. H. Jackson, Lieut. H. Y. Brandt, Lieut.
Col. E. VanVost, Maj. W. S. Gridley, Lieut. E. M. Schermerhorn.

ROTTERDAM—Lieut. E. Smith.

PRINCETOWN—Capt. Charles Roth.

NISKAYUNA—Lieut. A. V. Ketchum.

GLENVILLE—Sergt. James Reese.

DUANESBURG—Lieut. S. Smith; delegate at large, Maj. R. VanBrunt.

STEBEN—W. E. Richardson.

TOMPKINS—Byron C. Howard, C. S. Norton.

ULSTER—Bvt. Brig. Genl. J. B. Hardenburg.

WARREN—Capt. S. E. Chamberlain.

WASHINGTON—Maj. Henry Gray, Capt. J. S. Smart, Capt. W. H.
Kincaid, Col. Tanner, Bvt. Brig. Genl. James C. Rogers.

WAYNE—Col. A. P. Seely, Maj. A. H. Kemper.

MONTGOMERY—Capt. Angell Mathewson.

81 N. Y. V.—Col. J. A. DeForest.

On motion, a Committee of 10 were appointed by the Chair on permanent organization—one for each Judicial District, and 2 at large.

The Chair appointed the following as such Committee.

Surg. C. P. Statts, Col. A. H. Jackson, Col. H. H. Walpole, Maj. N. D. Ferguson, Col. W. L. Bramhall, Maj. F. W. Parsons, Col. M. B. Eldridge, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. A. B. Smith. At large, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. James C. Rogers, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. J. B. Hardenburg.

On motion, the following Committee of 7 were appointed by the Chair to report a plan for permanent organization and constitution.

Maj.-Genl. J. B. Carr, Col. Frank J. Bramhall, Maj. W. S. Gridley, Capt. S. E. Chamberlain, Col. Geo. W. Warren, Maj. Chas. Tanner, Lieut. Wm. Gilbert.

On motion, the Convention then adjourned to 5 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention met at 5 o'clock, and was called to order by the President.

On motion, all State officers who have served in the Army or Navy of the United States, were declared members of this association, and Col. TenEyck and Col. Hardenburg, were appointed a Committee to notify them of their appointment.

The Committee on permanent officers of this Convention, then reported that there be for this Convention one President, 8 Vice Presidents, 2 Secretaries, one Treasurer, and one Sergt.-at-Arms, and the following named officers were elected.

FOR PRESIDENT—Bvt. Maj.-Genl. J. B. Carr.

VICE PRESIDENTS—Col. J. B. McKean, Col. W. L. Bramhall, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. A. B. Smith, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. J. B. Hardenburg, Col. Horace H. Walpole, Col. M. B. Eldridge, Maj. S. Davis, Bvt. Maj.-Genl. P. H. Jones.

SECRETARIES—Maj. F. W. Parsons, Maj. R. VanBrunt.

TREASURER—Col. A. H. Jackson.

SERGEAT-ARMS—Michael C. O'Neil.

On motion of Col. J. B. McKean, Col. Duganne, was chosen an honorary member of this association.

Colonel Frank J. Bramhall on behalf of the Committee on permanent Organization and Constitution, reported the following Preamble and Constitution.

(SEE APPENDIX "A.")

Which after discussion, several amendments were carried, and the Constitution as amended was adopted.

On motion, a Committee of five were appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of this Convention, and Genl. J. C. Rogers, Genl. A. B. Smith, Col. M. B. Eldridge, Col. John Hastings and Col. Wm. L. Bramhall, were appointed such Committee.

On motion, the following Committee of five were appointed to prepare an address to the soldiers and sailors of the State. Capt. James Brice, Col. J. C. Carmichael, Col. Duganne, Col. A. H. Jackson, Maj. Le Grand Benedict.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for officers of the State Union to hold office for one year, and elected for

PRESIDENT—Bvt. Maj.-Genl. Joseph B. Carr.

VICE PRESIDENTS—Col. James B. McKean, Col. Wm. L. Bramhall, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. A. B. Smith, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. J. B. Hardenburg, Col. Horace H. Walpole, Col. M. B. Eldridge, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. N. M. Crane, Bvt. Maj.-Genl. P. H. Jones.

RECORDING SECRETARY—Maj. F. W. Parsons, Niagara Falls.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—Surg. A. A. Edmeston, Albany.

TREASURER—Col. A. H. Jackson, Schenectady.

SERGEAT-ARMS—David L. Stage.

On motion, each delegate was required to pay into the treasury, the sum of one dollar towards defraying the expenses of the Convention, also handing in their Post Office address.

The Chair now announced as the Executive Committee for the year

Col. George F. Hopper, Col. G. Parker, Maj. Joseph Egolf, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. James C. Rogers, Col. Gustavus Sniper, Col. Vanvoorhees, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. N. M. Crane, Maj. J. D. Newman.

Col. Frank J. Bramhall introduced a resolution approving and endorsing the Bill now before Congress to increase the pay of the United States Navy.

Referred to Committee on resolutions.

Capt. A. Mathewson introduced a resolution, That in case the Government of the United States reimburse the State for War expenditures, that the State should equalize the State bounties on the plan that Congress has proposed to equalize the Government bounties. Referred to Com. on resolutions.

The Convention then adjourned to meet at the City Hall, to-morrow, Wednesday the 18th, at 10 o'clock A. M.

J. B. CARR, Bvt. Maj.-Genl U. S. V., President:

Maj. F. W. PARSONS, Secretary.

WEDNESDAY, April 18th, 1866.

MORNING SESSION.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment, at 10 o'clock, and after being called to order by the President, the Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Committee on address now reported the following:

ADDRESS:

Comrades and Veterans of the State of New York—We address you on behalf of the Soldiers' and Sailors' State Union, and present you with a report of the resolutions and proceedings of that body, at its late session in the city of Albany. To those resolutions we ask your earnest attention.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' National Union is no political organization, and appeals to no partisan sentiment for support. Its origin was the national peril, its history the defence of our Union, and its membership is open to every man, who has faithfully served the Republic on land and sea. It is a Union of citizens in Peace, who were comrades in War. It is the fraternal muster-in of those who stood shoulder to shoulder against the enemies of their country.

But the Soldiers' National Union is more than a pleasant association of veterans to prolong their military connection. It is recognized that their combination is for mutual confidence and mutual help. While Soldiers and Sailors in union perpetuate the patriotism which led them to battle, it is deemed fitting that they should remind one another of certain obligations of gratitude imposed through their service upon the Nation at large. Debts have been incurred by the Republic which cannot be cancelled by triumphal receptions, votes of thanks, or military promotions, dear and grateful to the veterans as such tokens may be. The heroes of our struggle cannot all be rewarded or distinguished, but they may at least, be rescued from neglect and forgetfulness. The armless sleeve, the wooden leg, the mutilation, the scar, the broken constitution, appeal to sense and heart in every walk of civil life. Shattered remnants of field and staff, of rank and file are all around us. We seek to gather them in line again, that the arms and voices of comrades may uphold and cheer them on their march to the grave.

It has been asserted that "Republics are ungrateful," but the charge must not be against our government and nation. It is the duty of soldiers to stand by soldiers in a respectful advancement of all just claims; and to ask, as a body, from Congress and the people, a proper consideration of those claims.

The equalization of bounties, the preference of soldiers and sailors who have served in the defence of the Union, to all appointments, employment and labor under control of government, and a permanent provision for those of our number who are disabled by reason of service, are measures which appeal to the honor, the humanity and the justice of our countrymen.

We associate, therefore, in order that our efforts and influence, combined by union, may result in strength. We call upon the veterans of our Army and Navy to fall into line with us. We ask the soldiers and sailors of every county, town and neighborhood, in the State, to take immediate steps to form local Unions in correspondence with the State and National Union bodies. Comrades! Brothers

in arms! let us renew our pledges of devotion to each other and to our native land. Let us re-form the columns of military confidence and support. Let us keep alive the brave memories of camp and field, and in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union that we cherish, let us maintain still more and serve the People's Union, which we defended and preserved.

Col. J. B. McKean, of Saratoga Co., in an able speech advocated the adoption of the address. After some debate, participated in by Capt. Garey, Lieut. Gilbert, Capt. Brice, Col. Wm. L. Bramhall and others, the address was adopted.

Capt. DeLoss Garey introduced the following, which on motion, was laid on the table.

Resolved, That this State Convention are not to be considered as endorsing or approving of the resolutions offered or passed by the National Union at Washington, D. C., except as far as the same have been expressly endorsed by this Convention.

Lieut. A. O. Springer introduced the following which on motion was adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention, be, and are hereby tendered to the heads of Departments of the General and State Governments, who, in distributing the patronage under their control, have given to honorably discharged Soldiers and Sailors the preference over those who have not so served during the late rebellion.

On motion of Col. Frank J. Bramhall, a Committee of five of which the President was Chairman, ex-officio, was appointed to report By-Laws for the Government of this Union.

The President named as such Committee, Col. Frank J. Bramhall, Genl. James C. Rogers, Lieut. W. Gilbert, Col. John Hastings.

Col. J. B. McKean introduced the following, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Convention are hereby tendered to the President for his order, and to Congress for their joint resolution in favor of giving their preference in the distribution of patronage and in promotion to civil office, to honorably discharged and deserving soldiers and sailors.

Col. Wm. L. Bramhall moved that the following be added.

Resolved, That in order, that the President's order and the joint resolutions of Congress before referred to, may be put into practical operation, and enforcement—we deem it our duty and province to be vigilant, that no worthy applicant who is an honorably discharged soldier or sailor shall be denied the benefits prescribed by the aforesaid order and resolutions.

Col. Frank J. Bramhall offered the following which was adopted.

Moved, that the Executive Committee, be instructed to appoint a sub-committee, to be known as the Memorial Committee to confer and co-operate with the Commissioners of the Hall of Military Record, of the State of New York, in regard to the erection of a suitable monument, tablet, or other memorial, of our brother soldiers and sailors, of the Army and Navy of the United States, who have fallen in the late War in suppression of the great Rebellion, now happily closed.

Col. G. F. Hopper offered an amendment to Sec. 1st, of Article 5th of the Constitution, which was adopted.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

3 o'clock, P. M.

The convention met pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the President.

Col. Frank J. Bramhall, from the Committee on By-Laws, reported By-Laws to the Constitution, which, after amendment, were adopted, and recommended the amendment of the Constitution by the insertion of Sec. 4, Article V, which was also adopted.

By Maj. F. W. Parsons:

Resolved, That this State Union co-operate with the Bureau of Military Record in the collection of statistics, records, and relics of the State's history in the late war. Adopted.

By Maj. Le Grand Benedict;

Resolved, That in the organization of Subordinate Unions, throughout the State, we suggest the propriety of their appointing or providing for Relief Committees, to aid and assist destitute and disabled soldiers and sailors, their families, widows, and orphans. Adopted.

Moved, That a Committee of three be appointed, to lay before the present Legislature, the claims of soldiers who enlisted in 1861 and received no State bounty, or only a partial one. Adopted, and the Chair appointed Gen. Batchellor, Col. Warren, and Capt. Brice, as such Committee.

By Capt. S. E. Chamberlain;

Resolved, That all Conventions of the State Union shall be composed of not more than three delegates from each Subordinate Union. No organization will be granted a charter under any other name than a Soldiers' and Sailors' Subordinate Union. Adopted.

By Lieut. W. Gilbert;

Resolved, That each Subordinate Union, be requested to prepare a record of the men killed in action who enlisted from the territory over which such Union has jurisdiction. Said records shall contain the names, deaths, and places of death, and the military organization to which the deceased belonged and any incidents connected with their service or death deemed worthy of record and preservation. Adopted.

By Col. J. Hastings;

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention, be, and are hereby tendered to Major General Carr, President of this Union, for the impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of this Convention. Carried.

By Lieut. W. Gilbert;

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention, be, and are hereby tendered to Maj. Parsons, Recording Secretary of this Union, for the able and efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office. Adopted.

By Col. F. J. Bramhall;

Resolved, That we fully concur in the often repeated declaration of the President of the United States that "treason is a crime and should be punished" and we have been waiting most patiently for a practicable application of the principle to the leaders of the late Rebellion.

By Col. H. H. Walpole;

Resolved, That the members of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union of the State of New York, exert every effort to procure an amendment of the Constitution of this State, disfranchising deserters from the army and navy of the United States, and that in addition to this disgrace, that they be forever incapacitated from holding title to real-estate, and that their evidence as witnesses in our courts be declared inadmissible, thus making outlaws of the base individuals who deserted their Country in the hour of its greatest need after having assumed the sacred obligations of its defenders. Adopted.

By Col. Wm. L. Bramhall;

Resolved, That the Executive Committee, be, and are hereby instructed to number the Charters of Subordinate Unions in the order in which they are issued, and that Subordinate Unions shall be known by the number of their charters. Adopted.

By Col. Geo. W. Warren;

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are due, and are hereby tendered, to Col. James B. McKean, the presiding officer of this Convention during its temporary organization, for the very able and impartial manner in which he discharged the duties which devolved upon him. Adopted.

On motion of Col. McKean, the following delegates were elected to attend the National Convention, and, on motion of Maj. F. W. Parsons, the delegates were granted the power of substitution.

DELEGATES.	ALTERNATES.
1st Dist.	
2d "	
3d "	
4th " Col. George F. Hopper	
5th "	
6th "	
7th "	
8th "	
9th " Col. Wm. L. Bramhall	Col. F. J. Bramhall
10th "	
11th "	
12th " Capt. Geo. T. White	Maj. R. J. Palen
13th " Brig.-Gen'l J. B. Hardenburg	Col. Theo. B. Gates
14th " Col. John Hastings	
15th " Maj. Kisselburg	Maj. Le Grand Benedict
16th " Capt. S. E. Chamberlain	
17th "	
18th "	
19th "	Lt.-Col. Ed VanVorst
20th "	
21st " Capt. De Loss Gary	
22d "	
23d " Col. H. H. Walpole	Lt. W. Gilbert
24th "	
25th "	
26th " Maj. John Higgins	
27th "	

28th " "
 29th " " Maj. F. W. Parsons
 30th " "
 31st " "

At LARGE—Bvt. Maj.-Gen'l Joseph B. Carr, Col. James B. McKean.

On motion of Col. Wm. L. Bramhall, members of organizations who are represented in this Convention were considered as constructively members of this State Union. Adopted.

The following Preamble and Resolutions were offered by Col. Wm. L. Bramhall, and adopted.

That Whereas, The soldiers and sailors of the country, are indebted to the faithful and indefatigable efforts of Lieut. Wm. S. Morse, of Port Chester, Westchester Co., N. Y., for his able efforts in clearly presenting to Congress their interests in the subjects of bounties, and pensions, therefore be it

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are eminently due, and are hereby tendered to Lieut. William S. Morse, for his very able letter to Congress, exhibiting the statistical evidence of the cost to equalize the bounties of the soldiers and sailors who served during the late war for the Union, and for his indefatigable efforts in securing the introduction of a bill before that body, which will insure in its enactment a just equalization of the bounties of all soldiers and sailors who rendered service, during the late war.

Resolved, That we hereby express our gratitude in recognition of the valuable services he has rendered in our behalf, and that he is hereby duly elected an honorary member of the "New York Soldiers' and Sailors' State Union."

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to Lieut. W. S. Morse.

On motion offered by Col. McKean, the Secretaries were empowered to print 500 copies of the proceedings of this Convention, and also to procure a Book of Records for the use of the State Union.

A motion of Col. Wm. L. Bramhall was adopted, that the Executive Committee be instructed to report a plan for a soldiers' and sailors' home, at the next meeting of this Union.

Maj. W. S. Gridley submitted the following which was adopted:

Resolved: That the address and resolutions reported by the Committee and passed by the Convention, be published in the State papers that will publish the same without cost to the Convention.

Resolved, That the President of the United States, the Senator and each Member of Congress from this State, be furnished with a copy of the proceedings of this Convention. Adopted

Moved we adjourn sine die. Carried.

The Convention then adjourned.

Maj.-Gen. J. B. CARR, President.

Maj. F. W. PARSONS, Secretary.

APPENDIX "A."

Officers of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union of the State of New York:

PRESIDENT—Bvt. Maj.-Genl. J. B. Carr.

VICE PRESIDENTS—Col. J. B. McKean, Col. W. L. Bramhall, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. A. B. Smith, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. J. B. Hardenburg, Col. Horace H. Walpole, Col. M. B. Eldridge, Genl. N. M. Crane, Bvt. Maj.-Genl. P. H. Jones.

RECORDING SECRETARY—Maj. F. W. Parsons.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—Surg. A. A. Edmeston.

TREASURER—Col. A. H. Jackson.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS—David L. Stage.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Col. Geo. F. Hopper, Col. G. Parker, Major Joseph Egolf, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. J. C. Rogers, Col. Gustavus Sniper, Lieut. Col. Van Voorhees, Bvt. Brig.-Genl. N. M. Crane, Maj. J. D. Newman.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Col. A. H. Jackson, Col. John Hastings, Col. G. W. Warren.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE STATE UNION OF THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

PREAMBLE

Whereas, after years of bloody strife, without a parallel in history, the Government of the United States—whose life and existence were threatened by wicked, defiant, and armed rebellion—has been fully sustained, its enemies overcome, and its unity forever established; and

Whereas, it is eminently proper that the survivors of those who stood together in the bloody conflict, should perpetuate the friendships created by common suffering, trials, and sacrifices, to aid and protect, by harmonious co-operation with each other, to demand and procure the proper recognition of the claims of those who saved the life of the nation—to secure just relief for our unfortunate comrades in arms—and to co-operate with the Bureau of Military Record in the collection and preservation of the records of our brother soldiers and sailors from this State;

Now, therefore, to perfect a harmonious union among all who have honorably served in the armies and navies of the United States from the State of New York, we do hereby adopt the following

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I—NAME.

The name of this organization shall be "THE SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' UNION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK"

ARTICLE II—OFFICERS.

§ 1. The officers of this State Union shall consist of one President, eight Vice Presidents, (one from each judicial district), one Recording Secretary, one Corresponding Secretary, one Treasurer, and one Sergeant-at-Arms.

§ 2. The above named officers shall be elected at the annual Convention of the State Union, a majority of all votes cast being necessary to secure a choice; said voting to be by ballot.

§ 3. The officers elect shall be installed at the meeting at which they are elected, and the installation be before and by the retiring presiding officer.

ARTICLE III—DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS.

§ 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the State Union, maintain order, enforce the rules, and perform such other duties as the State Union may require of him.

§ 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice Presidents to aid the President in maintaining order and enforcing the rules, and in his absence, the senior Vice President, present, to act as President.

§ 3. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of the Union, attest his signature to all records of its action, to all bills drawn upon the Treasurer and approved by the President; and perform such other duties as may from time to time be required of him in the nature of his office.

§ 4. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to conduct all correspondence of the Union, attend to the printing, prepare charters for Subordinate Unions, and perform such other duties as may be required of him in the nature of his office.

§ 5. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys of the State Union, pay out of the same all bills drawn on him attested by the Recording Secretary and approved by the President; he shall also render a quarterly account of the finances of the Union to the Executive Committee, and make a report to the regular Annual Convention of the State Union; and before entering upon the duties of his office he shall execute a bond in the sum of two thousand dollars, (\$2,000), with two responsible sureties, to be approved by the Executive Committee; at the expiration of his term of office he shall deliver up to his regularly elected successor all moneys, books, and papers of the Union in his possession.

§ 6. The Corresponding Secretary shall, during his continuance in office, have his business office in the city of Albany.

§ 7. Every officer before entering upon the duties of his office shall take and subscribe, in a book to be kept by the Recording Secretary for that purpose, the following obligation:

“I, _____, do solemnly promise, in the presence of these witnesses, that I will faithfully protect, maintain and support the Constitution of the Soldiers' and Sailors' National and State Unions and all laws made in pursuance thereof, and that I will faithfully perform the duties of _____ of this State Union, to the best of my ability.”

ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP.

All soldiers and sailors who have honorably served in the suppression of the late rebellion, are hereby eligible to membership of any Subordinate Union chartered by this State Union.

ARTICLE V—COMMITTEES.

§ 1. The Standing Committees of this State Union shall be an Executive and a Finance Committee, to be appointed annually by the President of the State Union. The Executive Committee shall consist of one member from each Judicial District, of which Committee the President, and the Vice Presidents, the two Secretaries, and the Treasurer, members ex-officio, in addition to the other members. This Committee shall have power to elect their own Chairman and Secretary, and seven members shall constitute a quorum.

§ 2. It shall be the duty of this Committee to prepare business for the respective Conventions, grant charters to Subordinate Unions, supervise the business of the State Union, and make such suggestions for the proper government of this Union as from time to time shall seem proper.

§ 3. The Executive Committee shall also adopt an appropriate seal for this State Union.

§ 4. The Finance Committee shall consist of three members of which the Treasurer shall be, ex-officio, a member. The duties of the Finance Committee shall be to exercise a general supervision over the finances of the State Union and to recommend to the Union from time to time such financial measures as may be deemed proper.

ARTICLE VI.—CONVENTIONS AND REPRESENTATION.

§ 1. There shall be at least one annual convention of the State Union, at such time and place as shall be fixed by the Executive Committee, of which time and place each Subordinate Union shall have due notice, which notice shall be published in the papers of the State.

§ 2. All Conventions of the State Union shall be composed of three delegates from each Subordinate Union.

ARTICLE VII.—SUBORDINATE UNIONS.

§ 1. The Executive Committee shall have power to grant charters to Subordinate Unions on the application of ten persons who may be entitled to make such application. The charter fees for said Subordinate Unions shall be five dollars.

§ 2. Reports shall be made quarterly to the Recording Secretary of the State Union attested by the signatures of the President and Recording Secretary of the Subordinate Union.

ARTICLE VIII.—BY-LAWS.

The State Union shall have power to adopt By-Laws at any of its Conventions.

ARTICLE IX.—AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may from time to time be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the Convention.

BY-LAWS.

ART. 1. DUES.

§ 1. The Annual Dues of each Subordinate Union to the State Union shall be four dollars, payable upon the presentation of the credentials of its delegate.

§ 2. No delegate from a Subordinate Union whose dues are unpaid, shall be admitted to a seat in the State Union.

ART. 2. REPORTS.

§ 1. Reports from Subordinate Unions shall be made quarterly, on the 1st of January, April, July and October of each year, and shall contain the names and addresses of its officers, the whole number of members, the time and place of meeting, and such other information as may from time to time be required by the Secretary of the State Union.

Resolutions of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union of the State of New York.

The following resolutions were adopted at the late Convention of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union of the State of New York, at Albany, on the 17th of April, 1866.

Whereas, This Convention has been called for the purpose of forming a Soldiers' and Sailors' State Union, by which the citizen soldiers and sailors of the State of New York lately engaged in the defence of the Union may, by a united and organized effort, promote certain laudable objects and secure certain rights to which they believe they are justly entitled; therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to the soldiers and sailors throughout the State to organize subordinate Unions in each town and ward upon the plan adopted and proposed by this Union.

Resolved, That this Union earnestly urges upon the Congress of the United States the propriety of providing by law that every enlisted soldier and sailor, who has served in the Army or Navy of the United States at any time during the late rebellion, and who has not received an amount of bounty equal to one hundred dollars for each year of service actually rendered, shall be paid an amount of bounty or premium which, together with the bounty already paid to such soldier or sailor, shall amount to one hundred dollars for each year of service actually rendered, and in like proportion for each complete month of service actually rendered; provided, however, that no soldier or sailor who shall have at any time deserted the service, or who shall have been a prisoner of war at the time of his enlistment, shall receive any additional bounty; and provided, further, that in the payment of such bounties to sailors the amount of prize moneys received or found due shall be deducted from said bounty.

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the "House Bill" for equalization of bounties, known as Julien's bill, as embodying the views of this Union.

Resolved, That the pension of soldiers and sailors who have been wholly disabled in the service of the United States during the recent rebellion, ought to be increased to twenty-four (24) dollars per month, and in proportion for any partial disability; and we endorse the "House Pension Bill" as a step in the right direction.

Resolved, That it is the desire of this Convention that if any of the benefits asked for should be conferred by Congress, no distinction will be made between soldiers on account of color.

Resolved, That we believe it to be the duty of Congress, heads of departments, and all others dispensing the patronage of the State or general Government, to discriminate in favor of competent disabled soldiers; and we are sorry to say that we see but little disposition upon the part of those in power to provide for this meritorious class of our countrymen.

Resolved, That we yurn the soldiers of the country, our late companions in arms, against speculators in discharges, and exhort them to preserve, as precious testimonials, the evidence which the Government has given them of their honorable service.

Resolved, That this Convention respectfully request Congress to protect the honorably discharged soldiers of the country against traffic in their discharges, by imposing penalties on all who buy or offer to buy a soldier's discharge; and to prevent, by proper legislation, any one receiving the benefits which may be given to

the discharged soldier by Congress, except the soldier himself or his personal representatives.

Resolved, That should Congress determine to retain in service as a part of the Regular Army regiments of the Veteran Reserve Corps, enlisted men and officers who have been disabled in the line of duty should be equally eligible to positions in said corps, and entitled to the same rights and privileges whether now members of said corps or honorably discharged from the late Volunteer Army.

Resolved, That in the event, as before stated, this Union will use its best endeavors to secure for honorably disabled officers and enlisted men, such appointments and positions.

JOSEPH B. CARR, President,
(Troy, N. Y.)

F. W. PARSONS, Secretary,
(Niagara Falls, N. Y.)



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 012 196 794 7

